

February 19, 2026

Chair Sandy Bartlett
House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 566 From a Maryland Student's Perspective

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Yusuf Kamel, and I am a student. Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of House Bill 566.

I want to talk about something that many adults may not fully see, but students live with every day – the fear of being maliciously exposed online.

Doxxing attacks change everything.

When your personal information is posted online, you don't just worry about mean comments. You worry about someone showing up at your house. You worry about your parents' safety. You worry about your younger siblings.

When your phone number is shared, your phone doesn't stop buzzing. Threats. Harassment. Messages telling you to hurt yourself.

And it doesn't just stay online. It follows you to class. It affects your grades. It affects your mental health. It affects your future.

If someone disagrees with you, instead of debating you, they can try to intimidate you by exposing your personal information.

That is not free speech. That is using fear as a weapon.

Right now, if a college or university student is doxxed in Maryland, there isn't a clear law that protects us. We've seen situations where students received death threats after their information was posted, and authorities said there was nothing they could do because no defined law was broken.

That leaves students feeling helpless.

HB 566 doesn't silence speech. It doesn't stop protest. It doesn't punish people for having different opinions. It simply says you cannot maliciously share a student's private identifying information to harm them.

There's a difference between disagreeing with someone and putting their safety at risk.

Many students already struggle with anxiety and depression. Being doxxed can push someone over the edge. We should not wait for a tragedy before we act.

Students deserve to feel safe going to campus. We deserve to participate in debate without worrying that someone will post our home address. We deserve to grow, make mistakes, speak up, and learn without fear of retaliation that could endanger our families.

HB 566 draws a clear line: you can speak your mind, but you cannot weaponize someone's private information. I respectfully ask you to give this bill a favorable report so students across Maryland can feel safer on their campuses and in their communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yusuf Kamel
Frederick County, Maryland